

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 31 without prejudice. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. -7. (Canceled)
8. (Currently Amended) An anti-~~human~~ CD40 antibody or a functional fragment thereof, wherein the antibody or a functional fragment thereof inhibits ~~CD40L (1 µg/ml) mediated~~ tonsillar B cell proliferation in vitro, wherein the inhibitory efficiency leads to about 50 to 95% or greater reduction in B cell proliferation when the concentration of the antibody is in the range of 0.01 µg/ml to 10 µg/ml and in the presence of a mixture of human flag-tagged CD40L at 1 ug/ml and CD40L enhancer antibody at 1 ug/ml.
9. (Currently Amended) An anti-~~human~~ CD40 antibody or a functional fragment thereof, wherein the antibody or a functional fragment thereof inhibits ~~CD40L (1 µg/ml) mediated~~ tonsillar B cell proliferation in vitro, wherein the inhibitory efficiency leads to about a 85 to 95% or greater reduction in B cell proliferation when the concentration of the antibody is in the range of 0.1 µg/ml to 10 µg/ml and in the presence of a mixture of human flag-tagged CD40L at 1 ug/ml and CD40L enhancer antibody at 1 ug/ml.
10. (Currently Amended) An anti-~~human~~ CD40 antibody or a functional fragment thereof, wherein the antibody or a functional fragment thereof inhibits ~~CD40L (1 µg/ml) mediated~~ tonsillar B cell proliferation in vitro, wherein the inhibitory efficiency leads to about 80 to 95% or greater reduction in B cell proliferation when the concentration of the antibody is in the range of 0.01 µg/ml to 10 µg/ml and in the presence of a mixture of human flag-tagged CD40L at 1 ug/ml and CD40L enhancer antibody at 1 ug/ml.
11. (Currently Amended) An anti-~~human~~ CD40 antibody or a functional fragment thereof, wherein the antibody or a functional fragment thereof inhibits ~~CD40L (1 µg/ml) mediated~~ tonsillar B cell proliferation in vitro, wherein the inhibitory efficiency leads to about a 95% or greater reduction in B cell proliferation when the concentration of the antibody is in the range of 0.1 µg/ml to 10 µg/ml and in the presence of a mixture of human flag-tagged CD40L at 1 ug/ml and CD40L enhancer antibody at 1 ug/ml.
12. -19 (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The anti-~~human~~ CD40 antibody or a functional fragment thereof of claims 8 through 11 wherein the heavy chain variable region and the light chain variable region of the antibody are the product of a human-derived antibody gene.
21. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one anti-~~human~~ CD40 antibody or a functional fragment thereof selected from claims 8 through 11 and 20.
22. (Withdrawn) An isolated DNA molecule encoding the heavy chain variable amino acid sequence of SEQ ID 16.
23. (Withdrawn) The isolated DNA molecule of claim 16, wherein the DNA sequence comprises SEQ ID 14.
24. (Withdrawn) An isolated DNA molecule encoding the light chain variable amino acid sequence of SEQ ID 17.
25. (Withdrawn) The isolated DNA molecule of claim 16, wherein the DNA sequence comprises SEQ ID 15.
26. (Withdrawn) An isolated DNA molecule encoding the heavy chain variable amino acid sequence of the antibody produced by the hybridoma F1-102, F5-77, F5-152, F2-103, F5-157, 72, or F4-465.
27. (Withdrawn) An isolated DNA molecule encoding the light chain variable amino acid sequence of the antibody produced by the hybridoma F1-102, F5-77, F5-152, F2-103, F5-157, 72, or F4-465.
28. (Withdrawn) An isolated DNA molecule wherein the DNA sequence comprises SEQ ID 10, SEQ ID 11, SEQ ID 12, SEQ ID 13, SEQ ID 14 or SEQ ID 15.
29. (Canceled)
30. (Withdrawn) A host cell containing the nucleic acid selected from claims 22 through 28.
31. (Canceled)